till 31st March, 1995 for advertisements; and

(b) the number of such newspapers, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) There were 5322 newspapers on the panel of DAVP during the year 1994-95 (till 31.3.95) for release of Government advertisements. Their language-wise break up is as under:

English	259
Hindi	3604
Urdu	450
Punjabi	165
Marathi	121
Gujarati	111
Sindhi	22
Assamee	34
Bengali	225
Oriya	59
Tamil	66
Telugu	67
Malayalam	67
Kannada	59
Sanskrit	7
Nepali	3
Mizo	2
Khasi	3
Konkani	2
Manipur.	2
Total:	5322

Television serial by MA-PO Sivagnanam

7860. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on the appeal of veteran freedom fighter Ma-Po Sivagnanam to telecast his TV serial;

(b) the stage at which the matter stands; and

(c) whether Government would conduct immdiate investigation for proper action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Doordarshan is

endeavouring to telecast the said serial 'Upasana', commissioned by it, at the earliest possible opportunity. No firm date can, however, be indicated at present.

Popular serials on Doordarshan

7861. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has decided to shift the most popular TV serials from DD Metro-II/ to DD National Channel I on late night slots from June, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for this major policy decision;

(c) the estimated loss of revenue to Doordarshan due to this shifting of popular serials from DD-II Metro prime time slots of 8.30 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. and 10.30 slots of DD-I;

(d) whether this decision will benefit other TV channels viz. Zee TV and others as most of the sponsors will prefer to advertise on running slots of these private channels; particularly Zee TV; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to re-consider the decision or postpon decision by Doordarshan authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed shift is being made in order to make these populars serials available to a larger viewership through the DD-1 channel.

(c) Doordarshan does not anticipate any loss of commercial revenue on this count.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Ban on programmes of star TV

7862. SHRI G. G. SWELL:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put a ban on appearance on TV screen for those responsible in attacking Mahatma Gandhi on Star TV programme; and

(b) the names of the personnel involved in Star TV programme that attacked Mahatma Gandhi in most vulgar manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government cannot ban the apearance of any person on a programme telecast by a foreign satellite channel beamed from outside India to a foreign satellite.

(b) The producer of the show 'Nikki Tonight' was Shri Raghav Bahl, Managing Director, Television Eighteen India Limited, N. Delhi. The interviewer was Ms. Nikki Bedi and the interviewee Mr. Ashok Rao Kavi.

Selection criteria of regional films and serials

7863. SHRI BHAGABAN MAIHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for selection of Regional films and other serials etc. for showing on Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) whether the criteria are being followed while selecting such films from Orissa;